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Oh No! 99!

Developing
Number Sense
Grades 3-6
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Overview

While older elementary students are typically engaged with larger whole numbers, many still need and benefit from practice with mental addition and subtraction of smaller numbers. In this two-person card game, players attempt to force their partner to be the one to push their jointly accumulating score above 99. The game provides practice with adding and subtracting while also giving students the chance to think strategically.

Materials Needed

A deck of playing cards (jokers removed) for each pair of students.

Card Values and Operations

Aces:	add 1
Jacks:	subtract 10
Queens:	wild cards that can represent any other card in the deck
Kings:	add zero
All others (2-10):	add their face value

Directions for Playing the Game

1. One player shuffles the cards and deals four cards to each player. The undealt cards remain in a stack, face down.
2. Players take turns playing one card at a time, adding or subtracting the value of their card to or from their jointly accumulating score.
3. Each time a player plays a card, he or she must replace it with the top card on the face-down stack.
4. Play continues until one player forces his or her partner to go over the score of 99.